

Serial No.: 10/532,598
Atty. Docket No.: P70481US0

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel and add new claims as follows:

Claims 1-18. (Canceled).

19. (New) A coupling device comprising a first connector part and a second connector part, each connector part including at least one connecting portion configured to engage with at least one corresponding connecting portion of the other connector part to connect said first and second connector parts in substantially linear alignment with one another, a releasable locking member configured to assist in disengaging the engagement between said connecting portions, said releasable locking member having a first engagement structure and being secured to the first connector part in a fixed position relative to a longitudinal axis of said first connector part while being rotatably movable about said longitudinal axis at said fixed position, said second connector part having a disk with a through-going hole in communication with each corresponding connecting portion, respectively, and a second engagement structure on said disk, said first and second engagement structures being complementary to one another to engage through respective rotational movement thereof about said longitudinal axis to lock the connection between said first and second connector parts

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against separation in response to longitudinally directed force in an absence of respective counter-rotational movement of said first and second engagement structures.

20. (New) The coupling device as set forth in claim 19, wherein the disk of the second connector part has two holes arranged with a small spacing.

21. (New) The coupling device as set forth in claim 19, wherein the first engagement structure of said releasable locking member includes internal threads, and the second engagement structure of the second connector part includes external threads.

22. (New) The coupling device as set forth in claim 21, wherein the external threads include at least one recess.

23. (New) The coupling device as set forth in claim 21, wherein the external threads include two or more recesses.

24. (New) The coupling device as set forth in claim 22, wherein at least one of the through-going holes extends into the recess.

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25. (New) The coupling device as set forth in claim 19, wherein the engagement structures include a bayonet coupling having at least one track in the releasable locking member and at least one projection on the second connector part, said at least one track including at least one portion extending obliquely with respect to an axial direction of the releasable locking member.

26. (New) The coupling device as set forth in claim 19, wherein at least some of said connecting portions have an axial extension such that the first and the second connector parts are brought into connection with each other before activation of the releasable locking member.

27. (New) The coupling device as set forth in claim 21, wherein said releasable locking member includes a handle.

28. (New) The coupling device as set forth in claim 19, wherein the first connector part includes two male luer lock connecting portions and the second connector part includes two female luer lock connecting portions.

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29. (New) The coupling device as set forth in claim 19, wherein said first connector part or said second connector part is associated with a probe for an irrigation system.

30. (New) A coupling device comprising a first connector part and a second connector part, said first connector part including two male luer lock connecting portions configured to engage with two female luer lock connecting portions of the second connector part to connect said first and second connector parts in substantially linear alignment with one another through axial movement, a releasable locking member configured to assist in disengaging the engagement between said connecting portions, said releasable locking member having a first engagement structure and being secured to the first connector part in a fixed axial position thereon while being rotatably movable about said axis, said second connector part having a transversely extending disk with a second engagement structure thereon, said first and second engagement structures being complementary to one another to engage through respective axial rotational movement thereof to lock the connection between said first and second connector parts against separation in response to axial force.

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31. (New) The coupling device as set forth in claim 30, wherein said disk has a through-going hole in communication with each corresponding connecting portion.

32. (New) The coupling device as set forth in claim 30, wherein the disk of the second connector part has two through-going holes in communication with each corresponding connecting portion, said holes being arranged with a small spacing.

33. (New) The coupling device as set forth in claim 32, wherein the first engagement structure of said releasable locking member includes internal threads, and the second engagement structure of the second connector part includes external threads.

34. (New) The coupling device as set forth in claim 33, wherein the external threads include at least one recess.

35. (New) The coupling device as set forth in claim 33, wherein the external threads include two or more recesses.

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36. (New) The coupling device as set forth in claim 34, wherein at least one of the through-going holes extends into the recess.

37. (New) The coupling device as set forth in claim 30, wherein at least some of said connecting portions have an axial extension such that the first and the second connector parts are brought into connection with each other before activation of the releasable locking member.

38. (New) The coupling device as set forth in claim 30, wherein said releasable locking member includes a handle.